Mountain Weather Forecast

South Grampian and Southeast Highlands

Including South and East Cairngorms National Park, Aberdeenshire and Angus Hills, Ben Vrackie, Ben Lawers, Loch Tay and Ochils
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 21 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 22 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 at 17:41 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for remaining very changeable and windy, and for storm force winds on Thursday. Medium for details, falling low from later Friday onwards especially regarding the boundary of mild and cold air and snow levels on Friday and early Saturday.

Headline for Thursday 21 Dec 2023: A very stormy day with frequent showers turning increasingly to snow.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy rain showers (night)	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers	Light snow showers	Light snow showers (night)	Light snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
90%	80%	60%	50%	50%	50%	40%	40%

Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy overnight with some more persistent rain in the early hours, quite heavy in the west for a time, this turning showery later in the night, showers turning to snow above 800m by dawn. Daylight hours will bringing occasional showers and some bright or sunny intervals. The showers quite heavy and blustery in north and west, falling as snow initially above 700-800m but as it turns colder from the north, they will turn to snow down to 500m by afternoon. Limited fresh snowfalls but where they do occur over northern peaks, some blowing or drifting is likely in the extremely strong winds.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10-20% in early hours, rising 60% by daylight hours.

Low Cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud at 700-900m in early hours with occasionally poor visibility in rain below the cloud. The cloud breaking and lifting to nearer 1000-1200m by daybreak, with good visibility away from showers, but near showers bases could fall to 750m with poor visibility outwith cloud as heavier snow showers pass through.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1100	66/78 W	70/84 W	72/87 W	65/80 NW	58/72 NW	53/66 NW	50/62 NW	49/61 NW	45/57 NW
900	48/60 W	51/65 W	51/67 W	47/62 NW	43/57 NW	38/51 NW	36/48 NW	35/48 NW	33/45 NW
600	34/55 W	35/57 W	36/61 W	33/56 W	30/51 NW	26/45 NW	24/43 NW	24/41 NW	22/38 NW
300	20/43 W	22/47 W	25/52 W	24/51 W	21/44 NW	17/38 NW	16/36 NW	15/34 NW	14/32 NW
Glen	21/45 W	22/46 W	23/49 W	21/46 W	19/41 W	15/33 NW	14/31 W	13/29 W	13/29 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1100	2/-8	2/-7	-0/-11	-2/-13	-4/-15	-4/-16	-4/-16	-4/-16	-4/-15
900	4/-4	4/-3	2/-7	0/-9	-1/-11	-2/-12	-2/-12	-2/-12	-2/-12
600	6/-0	7/1	4/-2	3/-5	1/-7	0/-7	-0/-7	0/-7	0/-7
300	8/4	9/5	7/2	5/-0	4/-2	3/-2	2/-3	2/-3	2/-3
Glen	9/5	10/6	8/4	6/1	5/0	4/-1	3/-1	3/-2	3/-2
Freezing Level*	1500m	1600m	1100m	800m	500m	500m	400m	400m	400m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Storm force winds with gusts over 100mph possible on exposed ridges and summits in morning, where any mobility will be almost impossible with a high risk of being blown off your feet. Note also the extremely low feels like temperatures.

Forecast for Friday 22 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with occasional showers, snow falling above 500-600m, slowly rising. More persistent rain and snow will develop in the evening, turning to rain at all levels over most of the area, but remaining as snow across the Aberdeenshire hills down to 450m, the location of the boundary of the mild and cold air likely to be uncertain, but sharp.

Maximum wind: Though not as windy as Thursday, west to northwesterly winds will remain strong, around 35 gusts 50mph. Winds perhaps becoming more variable in direction in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20-30%

Low Cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud at 700-900m with some lower patches. Occasionally moderate or poor visibility in any heavier rain, or where there is still snow falling.

Temperature:
Glens: Plus 4 Celsius, falling Plus 2 in the north while rising plus 6 in the Ochils
At 800m: Minus 3 Celsius, rising to zero in the afternoon and Plus 3 in the evening for much of the area, but staying below freezing in Aberdeenshire.
Freezing level: At first, 500m, but rising 800m in the south in the afternoon, and above summits in the the evening, but little change in the Aberdeenshire Hills.

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